

Be Gentle 731

Chapter 731

Bianca struggled to breathe when she looked at Tommy, whose face resembled Luke.

Pain spread throughout her chest. Every breath felt painful.

What followed the pain was sorrow and grief...

Luke had promised her that he would return safely, but it seemed that he would be going back on his word again.

Tommy could see from Bianca's face that she was not in a good mood.

He was not as naughty as before. Instead, he handed Bianca a napkin and said, "You're crying, Mommy. Wipey..."

The little boy tiptoed and tried to reach his mother's face so that he could wipe off the tears for her.

However, he was too short.

Dejectedly, he tugged the hem of his mother's sleeve and asked her, "What happened, Mommy? Don't ignore me. Did I do something wrong? I won't ever make you angry again, Mommy. Can you please forgive me?"

The little cutie that was half his mother's height thought that he had gotten into trouble.

He was apologizing to Bianca, even though he did not know what he did wrong.

Bianca's gaze was transfixed on her son's face. Through it, she seemed to have seen her lover.

was in a daze and did not realize that her phone

was blank, as though her soul had left

her arm and told her, "Your phone is ringing, Mommy. Is Daddy calling

did not move. She

was too young, and he did not know that his father's plane had crashed. Why would he be calling her if the satellites could not even detect

saw that Mommy was not responding, while the phone in her pocket kept on

his plump little hand, he reached into her pocket, took out the phone, and answered it. "Hello? Daddy, is that you?" He said

low and resonant voice could be heard from the phone. "It's me, Tommy. Can you pass the phone to your

was about to do what his father said when he realized that the phone in his hands was

looked at the phone screen with incomparable excitement. The call notification indicated

spoke worriedly through the phone. "Is it you, Luke? Is it really you? Where are you now? I saw on the news that your flight crashed somewhere near Mount Pleasant... God knows how worried I was. What's going

a little dejected when he saw how agitated his

'Hmph, stupid Mommy. She ignores me every time she's worried **about Daddy!**'

Luke's voice was gentle and comforting. "It's really me, Bianca. There was an accident with the flight. Fortunately, I'm familiar with the airplane and managed to control it before it crashed. I landed it at Fluvia Airport, and now I'm resting in the lounge. I knew that you're going to be worried, so I called you.

...

In the VIP lounge of Fluvia Airport.

Luke gently comforted Bianca over the phone. He did not tell her that the flight was hijacked.

He knew that Bianca would always overreact whenever he told her that he was in danger. That was why he decided to trivialize the incident.

Only he knew how perilous the situation was at *that time*.

The hijackers had installed a magnetic interference device on the airplane. All navigation and positioning **systems failed**.

The airplane suddenly went into a 45-degree nosedive.

Everyone was fastened to their seats with the seatbelts, but it felt more dangerous than sitting on a *roller coaster*.

Ever since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, all cockpits of civilian aircraft had an internal lock that only the pilot could **access**.

While the pilot and copilot fought with the hijackers, each of them received a bullet to their *heart*.

engine in the cockpit had bullet marks. The gears were

battered the cockpit with blunt objects. Fortunately, it was built out of aluminum alloy. Aside from certain places that had the paint chipped off, it did not suffer any

learned many survival skills on the Island of Despair, which was why he could be calm when placed in such a

difficult to regain control of the airplane, but he did it

successfully landed the airplane at

that, the airline company and the police instantly arrived at the location to

company was in charge of investigating the airplane, while the police investigated the

were ten hijackers in total. Luke killed five of them and heavily injured

brave volunteers on the airplane subdued the remaining three and handed them to the

Luke wanted was to return to Bianca in A City as soon as

However, he could not leave yet.

cooperated with the police to find out the identities of the hijackers and the organization behind them.

He was not going to let the mastermind get

Chapter 732

Bianca felt relieved when she found that Luke was alive.

Around noon, Tommy said that he was hungry, while Old Master Rayne said that he was craving cornbread buns with collard greens.

He was already quite old, and he missed comfort food from his younger days. Furthermore, he was sickly, and it was natural that he had specific cravings.

Bianca almost missed the taste of cornbread too.

She had lived with her grandfather since young. They were poor, and they ate cornbread for most meals.

Grandpa used to make his own cornbread in the kitchen, and Bianca had learned how to do so by watching him.

Cornbread was quite tasteless and rough, but it was delicious to her because she was hungry and poor. Now that her living conditions had improved and the food at every meal was of much higher quality, it was nonetheless healthy to eat grains sometimes. It might help Old Master Rayne in his recovery too.

Bianca got the driver to go to the grocery store and bought a bagful of cornmeal and collard greens. She would be making cornbread for her grandfather this time.

When the driver returned with the groceries, Bianca went to the kitchen with a caretaker, while the other caretaker took care of Old Master Rayne in the front yard.

Tommy stood on a stool and watched his Mommy and the caretaker hard at work.

Bianca might not have cooked for a long time, but she maintained her culinary skills.

the cornmeal and flour in a bowl with the correct proportions, added some sugar, baking soda, salt, and eggs, and mixed it well with her

did so, she gave instructions to the caretaker. "Aunt Jemma, please wash the collard greens and remove the wilted leaves, then poach them for a while and mince

Jemma was impressed with what Bianca was doing. "I didn't expect that you would know how to make cornbread. I'm embarrassed to say that

Jemma was born and raised in the city, and she had never learned how to

became a caretaker because she had debts to pay. She had used all her savings to fund her two sons' weddings

for her, her employer was kind to her and

old man was charitable and easy to please, the children were smart and obedient, and the female employer was empathic and gentle. She took care of her employer's family as though they were

smiled gently. "You've never lived in the countryside, Aunt Jemma, so I don't blame you if you don't know how to make cornbread. I haven't had cornbread for many years. If Grandpa hadn't mentioned it, I've already forgotten how much I enjoyed

continued with their work without saying

Jemma minced the collard greens, Bianca deftly mixed it evenly with the cornbread dough. Then, she separated the dough into equal portions, picked up a piece, and kneaded it into the shape of a

*Soon, a cornbread bun was ready **for baking.***

"Mommy! I wanna learn how to make cornbread buns too..." Tommy was messing around with a portion of **dough.**

He tried to copy what his mother did, but his hands were too small and weak. The resulting bun was ugly and misshapen.

*Bianca stifled a laugh when she saw what her son did. She did not want to discourage him, so she tried to praise him, "Keep up the good work, my baby. You'll make a better bun **next time.**"*

Tommy pouted, and his little face turned red. "Don't make fun of *me, Mommy!*"

Bianca smiled and kissed Tommy's cheek. She proceeded to knead the dough into several cute animals...

There was a lifelike fox, a curious monkey, and a cute and plump bunny.

Tommy opened his mouth in astonishment, while Aunt Jemma was *very impressed.*

She had to admit that her employer was a *very talented baker!*

Half an hour later, the cornbread buns **were ready.**

When Bianca opened the oven door, the fragrance instantly filled the **entire kitchen.**

put several buns on a plate, took off her apron, and hurriedly gave the plate to

Rayne only had four working teeth left, though he seemed emotional when he ate the buns that his granddaughter had baked. "This tastes... good... tastes... like home... thank... you..."

man might not speak fluently, but the joy on his face

a trembling hand and gestured a thumbs up

crouched and gently massaged her grandfather's thighs that were covered by a thin quilt. "As long as you're happy, Grandpa. If you have any other cravings, just tell me. I'll make them for you as long as I know

if I don't know how to make it, I'll do my best to satisfy you,' Bianca thought but did not right..." Old Master Rayne spoke with trembling lips. He noticed the tears in her grandfather was taking big bites, Bianca tried to coax him. "Please eat slowly, Grandpa. I made a lot of buns today. There's enough for was sitting on the floor and eating one of the animal-shaped delicious, Mommy. I've never tasted anything better. Can we eat cornbread every day?" He

Chapter 733

Bianca hastily put on her slippers and rushed out of the door. She did not even realize that she knocked over a vase.

Tommy ran across the yard with his short legs and stretched his arms toward the man that just came out of the parked car. "Daddy, gimme a hug!"

Luke picked up the little boy in his arms and straddled him across his shoulders. "You're finally calling me Daddy. Tell me, what do you want me to buy for you this time?"

The man's expression was cold, but his gaze was brimming with care and indulgence.

"I don't want anything, Daddy. I miss you!" The cute little boy planted a kiss on Luke's cheek and slobbered all over his face.

Luke helplessly wiped his face. His son was getting better and better at flattery.

The little boy was jealous of him when they first met in Russia. Now that they were back home, he seemed to be quite clingy toward his father.

"Daddy, Lanie already has his own car. When can I have one of my own?" Tommy stared at his father with his puppy eyes, hoping to get his father to promise him something.

Luke had bought Lanie a cool miniature sports car last week. Tommy could not help but drool when he saw his elder brother driving it.

He wanted a sports car too, but Daddy said that he was way too small for one.

He wanted one now!

"Daddy..."

anxious when he noticed that Luke was ignoring him and staring at a certain point in the distance. He tried grabbing his Daddy's shirt collar, but his Daddy did not seem

turned his head to look in the same direction and noticed his Mommy running toward them, which made him pout

and Mommy forget about me every time they see each other. I

were still very far apart, but Luke could see that Bianca was wiping her tears. Her helpless demeanor made his heart wrench with a

his thin lips together, lifted Tommy from his shoulders, then carelessly tossed him on the ground as though he were a piece of scrap paper. The pebbles in the front yard made Tommy's

Tommy was speechless after being unceremoniously tossed

you really need to stop tossing me away whenever you see

strode toward Bianca with large

wiped the tears on her eyes and cheeks away. Her bloodshot eyes became redder after she rubbed them with her hands. She looked like a nervous

Luke hugged Bianca into his embrace.

Bianca began to sob loudly. Then, she struggled with all her might and started to pound on his chest. "I told you not to go on the business trip, but you never listen! When I heard the news that your flight had lost contact, I wanted to die! You've put me in despair for two years, Luke. Can you not do the same thing to me *again*?"

Luke's elbows gently rested on Bianca's shoulders. He lifted her cheeks with his hands and saw the pain in her **eyes**.

"**You're** crying again." The man's fingers that smelled faintly of rosin wiped away the tears at the corners of her **eyes**.

Bianca trembled. Those three words ignited the repressed emotions in **her heart**.

All her panic, frustration, and worry erupted uncontrollably at that *instant*.

Luke sighed gently and kissed the corners of her eyes.

His eyes were brimming with emotion, though his words had a calming effect. "Don't be afraid. I promised you that I'll return to you safely, and that is what I'll do. I'm here, right? I'm fine, if not a little dusty. See, I didn't even lose a hair..."

His voice was soft and gentle, and his movements doubly so.

He knew that his woman was distraught, so he tried to lighten *the mood*.

Bianca did not smile as he expected. Instead, her tears started to **flow again**.

a ferocious beast, she ripped his shirt apart and bit down heavily on his

She did not let go.

not even flinch. He let her do whatever she wanted. "My darling, my chest muscles are quite hard, and you'll hurt your jaw. If you want to bite me, you can bite my neck. It's softer there," he said

been working out every day, and his chest muscles were as hard

was already sore. When she heard him say that, she instantly bit down on his

The pain was like fire.

shocked. He realized that his chest was wet

began to tremble as he called out the name that had been embedded in his memories. "Please forgive me, Bianca. I promise that there won't be next

lowered his head and looked at the woman in his

seemed frail as her slight frame was illuminated by the setting sun, but at the same time, she seemed strong and

Chapter 734

Luke tried to coax Bianca with a gentle voice. His low and resonant voice had a hint of an indulgent smile in it.

The setting sun gave his sculpted facial features a charming silhouette, which made Bianca's heart beat faster.

She could feel her earlobes turn hot. "Don't make me worry about you again. Otherwise..."

Luke lowered his voice and stared at her gentle face. "Alright, but will you forgive me this time?"

Bianca grunted coyly. "What if I don't forgive you?"

Luke smiled, and his gaze became gentler. "Then I'll do whatever I can to convince you to forgive me. You know that I love you. I'll even pluck the stars from the sky if you want me to."

His words made Bianca bite her lip. Her emotions were undergoing a tremendous change.

She pretended that she was still angry, though she could not help but smile. "I want the stars in the sky. Are you going to fulfill my wish?"

Luke tousled her hair and said abruptly, "Close your eyes, Bea."

Bianca was surprised but did what she was told. "Why? What do you want to do?"

The man removed Bianca from his embrace with his muscular yet slightly cool arms that smelled faintly of mint.

He placed his palm over her eyes and made sure that her eyelids were closed.

"Wait for me for a while." Luke's voice was next to her ear, which made Bianca's back stiffen.

to what he told her. She remained on the spot and heard the man's footsteps move away from

beginning to feel a little

eyes, she tried to see where Luke went. "Hey, where are you

that Bianca opened her eyes. He turned around, went back to her, and gently kissed her lips. "I'm going to get something from the room. Wait for me for a while, and I'll give you a surprise,

She closed her eyes again.

standing next to a rose bed in

were like eyes, staring at their

the bed was a wooden round table covered with a light blue

the table was a vase with a single stalk of a light blue flower. It was like a scene of the beautiful Aegean sitting on a stool, resting his cheeks on his hands. He looked at his mother curiously and wondered what his parents were

He seemed quite excited.

waited for about five minutes, but Luke did not

starting to get anxious. "I'm going to open my eyes, Luke. I'm really going to open

She could hear Tommy laughing at her. That made her angry at the man but even angrier *at herself*.

"*Why* did I close my eyes? Just because he told me to do *so*?"

'Can't I stand up for myself?'

Even though she was angry at herself, she continued to stand there.

She decided to wait for a few more minutes. If Luke had not returned by then, she would be really angry at him, and she would not forgive him no matter what he said or did.

Some time later, a pair of large and warm hands enveloped Bianca's slightly cool hands.

"You can open your eyes now," said a familiar **masculine voice**.

Bianca opened her eyes. The man in front of her was staring at her lovingly with a **passionate gaze**.

Her silhouette was reflected in his *eyes*.

Luke picked up her hands and made it so that their palms were touching *each other*.

Her palms were small and delicate, about half the size of his. Even so, they looked harmonious when placed **together**.

"What are you doing?" Bianca *was confused*.

moment, all those questions were answered. She opened her mouth wide

palms touched, glittering silver stars appeared one

stars reflected the light of the sunset, creating the scene of a

the stars was a round moon. It was a beautiful picture of the

surprised and excited. "What's... what's

saw that, he nearly fell off his

How did Daddy create all those stars and the moon just by touching his palms with

'I want to learn it too!'

hugged Bianca's delicate waist and gazed into her eyes. "You wanted the stars, so I gave you the sky. Do you

had devised that trick to flirt with women. By using certain chemical reactions, he could conjure a starry sky. He had shown Luke that trick once, and Luke remembered how to

turned out to be

childish trick could make his woman smile, he thought that it was

at her palms and saw that they were clean. "How did you do that? When did you learn such a trick?" She could not help

Chapter 735

Wayne grunted nonchalantly. "Don't you have anything else to do lately, Vince? You rarely meddle in my business."

He was not the pushover third son that he used to be.

As lowly as he was in the past, he was now on top of the chain of command.

The populous Blatt family had a massive family business with more than a century of history. Naturally, a family like that would place importance on the preservation of their main bloodline. They were a weak and unremarkable branch and had been bullied and oppressed by the main family.

All three brothers were competitive and ambitious. They were not going to yield to others so easily.

The three brothers joined forces and, in the short span of a few years, eliminated the other branches of the family one by one.

Victor Blatt, the eldest brother, was successful in the military circles. Vincent, the second brother, was an influential figure in the business circles. Wayne, the youngest brother, wielded considerable influence in the underworld. That was how they achieved their current position.

Vincent grabbed Wayne's shirt collar, and a hint of anger flashed on his usually gentle face. "I'm not in the mood for joking, Wayne. Tell me honestly. Are you involved in Luke Crawford's accident? Are you behind the recent flight accident?"

that his elder brother was truly angry, Wayne toned down his brazen attitude. He brushed his brother's hands away and said impatiently, "So what if I'm involved in it? I've never liked that Crawford guy anyway. Moreover, he's your business rival, and T Corporation has been snatching your clients over the years. Don't you hate him? Shouldn't you be happy that I got rid of him for you? Also, don't think that I don't know you've been trying to court that man's beautiful wife. She's already used goods with three children. Why do you even bother with her? You can get any woman you want with your status

don't have the right to meddle in my business! If Luke Crawford were so easily eliminated, why would he reappear in A City two years later as though nothing happened? I've gone head to head with Luke Crawford before, and he's a formidable opponent. Even I have to admit defeat when I go up against him. What makes you think that you can kill him? You

kicked at Wayne's knee, but the latter dodged the attack nimbly and said cruelly, "He's not as mystifying as you say he is, Vince. I blew his brains out with a bullet! I don't know how he survived it, but he won't be as lucky next time. If one bullet didn't work, a few more bullets ought to do the trick. I'll make sure that he's dead this

who was usually composed, was angered once again. "You insufferable idiot! You'd better not let Luke Crawford find any of your dirt. Otherwise, the Blatt family will never know another day

on the couch and placed his legs on the coffee table. "Don't worry, Vince. I know how to clean up after myself, and no one will ever find incriminating evidence of what I've done. I won't bring any trouble to the family, Vince. We've grown up together. Don't you know what I'm capable of

at him and smiled ambiguously. "Do you think that you're the one who cleans up the mess after your antics? I'm the one who has to deal with the fallout! You're almost thirty years old, and it's about time that you stop fooling around and find a proper woman to

better distance yourself from the adoptive daughter of the Normans as soon as you can. She might seem obedient and pliable, but she's more dangerous than you think. Otherwise, she'll be the cause of your downfall one day! You'd better go and hide in Victor's barracks or somewhere overseas for a while. Come back when it's

However, Wayne frowned impatiently in response to his elder brother's advice. "Mind your own business, Vince. I'm only messing with that Norman woman, and I've never thought of marrying her. I was a soldier for eight years, and I'm already bored with military life. I won't ever return to the **barracks**.

"I **don't** mind going overseas, but it won't be any time soon because I have some unfinished business here. Don't worry, Vince, Luke Crawford won't find out that it's me. I've always kept my trail clean, and even if he does, I believe that Vic and you will take care of him for me."

After he said that, he stood up and left the house without looking back. "You don't have to worry about me, Vince. Just take care of your own business. I have somewhere else *to be!*"

Vincent was once again angered by his younger brother's nonchalant attitude. He kicked and sent the coffee *table flying*.

Somehow, he had a bad premonition that his younger brother would get into trouble sooner *or later!*

...

Bianca was in a good mood *today*.

condition was under control, and she was glad that he was on the road

had a lot of business to attend to after his narrow escape from death on the airplane. After spending the night with her, he went to the company early in the

Jemma noticed that Bianca was all smiles and said jokingly, "You seem to be in good spirits today, Madam. Are you going to

handsome face appeared in Bianca's mind. "I'll be visiting my mother today, Aunt Jemma. Please help me take care of my grandfather. I'll be

up some presents and departed for the

...

arrived at the Norman residence with Tommy in tow, Bianca noticed that Queenie was busy in the front yard while holding a black jar in

Chapter 736

Leia's gaze discomfited Bianca, but she did not think too much of it.

After all, Leia had never seen eye to eye with her, especially after she had reunited with her birth mother.

She had taught Leia a lesson several times, which kept her attitude in check.

However, she wondered if she was seeing things. She thought that Leia had lost a lot of weight recently, and her beautiful hair that used to be her pride had become a lot thinner. Her animated gaze was sunken, hollow, and unfocused, as though she was a migratory bird that had lost her way.

Leia flashed an unnerving grin when she saw Bianca.

Bianca shuddered and turned her head away. She looked at the black jar next to Queenie.

She could catch a whiff of something fragrant emanating from the jar. "Are you pickling something, Mom? It smells quite good."

"Your dad loves pickles, and so I'm pickling some radishes and gherkins for him. I'll give you and Luke some when it's ready. Do you like pickles too, Tommy?" Queenie said lovingly.

Tommy hugged Queenie's neck and said adorably, "I love anything you make, Grandma!"

"You precocious cutie!"

delighted by Tommy's words. She gave her grandson a

she frowned when she noticed the presents next to Bianca's feet. "Bea, I've told you that you don't need to bring anything whenever you come. Why don't you ever listen? We don't need anything. All we hope is that you come back often with

picked up the presents and smiled gently. "I know that you and Dad aren't short of anything, Mom, but it's not the same when your daughter gives you presents, isn't it? Also, I always feel guilty whenever I think that I used to be busy with work and don't have the time to accompany the two

you always been this stubborn, my child?" Queenie shook her head helplessly and went inside the house with Tommy in

Bianca followed behind, carrying the presents.

living room, Tommy tugged his grandmother's arm and said precociously, "I'm already a big boy now, Grandma. You should put me down because you might be tired after carrying me. I can sit on

whatever you say, my baby." Queenie smiled indulgently and placed Tommy on the couch. "I'll go to the bedroom and bring you a present. Wait for me for a

"Okay!"

Queenie went away, the doorbell rang. The caretaker went to open the door and saw two police officers, one male and one female,

"Is this the residence of Leia Norman?" The female police **officer asked.**

The caretaker was flustered, though she nodded. "Yes, this is the Norman residence. Do you have any business with **Ms. Leia?**"

The male police officer flashed his badge and said, "We're from the A City Headquarters. We've received an anonymous tip that Ms. Leia Norman is involved in illegal drug usage and possession, and we would like to bring her back for an **investigation.**"

The caretaker was confused and shocked. "What did you say? Ms. Leia is involved in drug possession? How... how is that *possible?*"

Bianca came out of the house. "Can I help you, *officers?*"

The two police officers exchanged glances with each other, and the male police officer continued, "Is Ms. Leia Norman home now? We received an anonymous tip last night that she is involved in illegal drug usage and possession. Preliminary investigation has shown that the culprit matches most of Ms. Norman's characteristics, and our superiors have ordered us to bring her back for the *investigation.*"

Bianca was shocked. Leia was involved in drug possession?

She remembered Leia's unfocused gaze and sinister demeanor and guessed that it might be true.

Queenie came out of the bedroom and handed a limited edition puzzle to Tommy.

She noticed the police officers in the front yard and went out of the house. "What's wrong, Bea? Why are the police here? Are they here to look for Jack?"

Leia saw the police officers from the second floor, her mind instantly went black, her vision went blurry, and her entire body

No!

had hidden the fact that she was taking illegal drugs. No one could have found out

was the second daughter of the Norman family. Her father was the Provincial Committee Secretary, and her mother was a well-known businesswoman and philanthropist. They would not launch an investigation on

she dared not go

locked the door shut, then curled up in her blanket on her bed. Her body felt cold in the mid-July summer

officer remained diplomatic when they saw Queenie come out of the house. "Mrs. Norman, we suspect that Ms. Leia Norman is involved in illegal drug use and possession. We want to bring her back to the police station for an investigation, and I hope that you will cooperate

could not believe what she heard. Her usually gentle voice became shrill. "Are... are you mistaken? Leia has always been a sensible girl. How could she be using drugs? I don't believe that my daughter would do

wrenched when she saw how Queenie harbored Leia without any

Chapter 737

Leia's sharp nails dug into her palm. She tried her best to remain calm and not let everyone see that she was panicking.

However, her slightly trembling shoulders betrayed her composure.

Queenie grabbed Leia's shoulder and asked her agonizingly, "Tell me, Leia. You didn't take illegal drugs, right?"

Leia's fragile visage was instantly shrouded by a thin layer of tears when she heard her mother's question. "Don't you know my character, Mom? I've always been so timid, and I wouldn't even dare to kill an ant. Do you think that I would take illegal drugs? Everyone else can accuse me of wrongdoing, but you're my mother!"

Her sickly demeanor and unrelenting questions made Queenie feel bad that she had even suspected her daughter the slightest.

Bianca smirked when she saw Leia's act. 'Not bad. No wonder she can be an actress,' she thought.

'If she had employed her talents in her career, she might have become a famous movie star by now.

'Too bad, her talents are used at all the wrong places.'

Queenie patted Leia's shoulders and spoke to her gently, "It's not that I don't trust you, but I'm worried because the police officers are here and they're suspecting you of drug possession... If you haven't done anything wrong, I don't think you should be worried about it. I'll go to the police station with you, and I'll make sure that they restore your innocence."

Leia was not relieved when she heard her mother's words of comfort. Instead, she became even more nervous.

She would be fine if she were innocent, but...

police officers could come to the house to look for her, it meant that they must have had some evidence of her

her mother found out that she took illegal drugs, she would not have any position in the

thought of that, her face turned as pale as

looked at Queenie, then clutched her head as though she had a migraine. "I don't feel too well today, Mom. My head hurts, and I don't think I can go to the police station. Can I go another

...

two police officers waited for a long time downstairs. Eventually, they became impatient and went up to the second floor. They happened to overhear that Leia did not want to go to the police

male police officer flashed his badge again and spoke sternly to Leia, "Ms. Norman, we've received orders from our superiors that we need to bring you back to the police station for investigations today. Please do not obstruct us in carrying out our

really hurts, Mom, and my chest feels stuffy. I wonder what's going on..." Leia clutched her forehead as though she was in agony. Her figure wavered and she clutched

her body went limp, and she collapsed in front of

"..." Bianca was speechless.

actress alright, but that was

"..." The two police officers were speechless **too**.

'**Now that** Ms. Norman has passed out, how do we bring her back?' They turned to look at Queenie worriedly.

"**Let** me check on her, Mom. She was healthy yesterday. I don't think she could become so sick today."

Bianca walked up to Leia and towered over her unconscious **body**.

She would like to see if Leia could keep up with *her act*.

Leia, who had pretended to pass out, was feeling uneasy. She knew that her mother would feel sorry for her if she passed out, but Bianca would not. What if Bianca saw through **her act**?

However, there was no other choice. If she did not pretend to pass out, she would be brought to the police station. That was the worst outcome that she tried to **avoid**.

Bianca crouched down and pinched the tenderest part of *Leia's waist*.

Leia could feel the full force of the pinch through her thin clothes. The corners of her mouth twitched uncontrollably, but she forced her eyes to remain **closed**.

Bianca smirked and pinched her harder.

howled and bounced to her feet like a spring. "Who is it? Who the f*ck

dusted her hands nonchalantly. "Now that you're awake, Leia, you'd better follow the officers to the police station. You look and sound healthy

wanted to claw Bianca's face. "My health is none of your f*cking business. Stop pretending to be the good

Leia's attack and shielded Bianca behind her. "Your elder sister cares for you, Leia. Don't be rude to her! Now that you're awake, I'll go to the police station with

tone of voice was authoritative and

cowered. She shot a vicious glare

she had failed to convince her mother that she was sick, she had to go to the police station. Otherwise, her mother might

the two police officers to escort her out of the

was worried that something might happen to Leia. She instructed Bianca to take good care of Tommy, then hurriedly followed

Leia was brought away, the Norman residence fell silent once

Leia's expression before she left. She suddenly had a bad

Chapter 738

Inside the interrogation room.

The lighting was not too bright, but it was a little glaring.

There was only one table and three chairs in the interrogation room.

Leia sat at the far end and in front of her were two seated police officers who looked particularly serious.

No matter how they questioned Leia, she would not give them any answer other than she did not know.

The incandescent light made Leia's already pale face look even paler, like a ghoul.

Even though the two police officers had questioned her till their mouths were dry, she just remained silent the whole time.

They looked at each other and felt that there was no need to ask her any further, so they said to her, "Ms. Norman, follow us to do a urine test. The test results will tell us whether you took the drugs."

Leia sneered, and her tone sounded strange when she said, "If the test results show that I didn't take any drugs, it means that you guys have arrested an innocent person. If that's the case, how are you going to make it up to me? When the time comes, you'll feel my wrath! All of you will be demoted and disciplinary action will be taken!"

The two police officers became very embarrassed.

...

Outside the interrogation room.

sat in the team leader's office, waiting. The deputy superintendent personally greeted her with an awkward smile, "Mrs. Norman, I heard that your daughter has always been a smart and well-behaved girl. I'm sure she wouldn't have done anything illegal or disorderly, so

put on a bold face and sat with Queenie awkwardly. He knew that the woman in front of him was not someone to be

was a very capable and famous entrepreneur in their city. Plus, her husband who was backing her up was an even more powerful

had a choice, he would rather not involve himself in this mess. Even so, there were anonymous reports of Ms. Norman's suspected drug use and possession with proof. Therefore, when his superiors pressured him, he had no

acted as if she did not hear anything he said. She just sat there in a daze,

around 15 minutes, she stood up, went outside of the office, and made a

woman's gentle voice carried a helpless cry. "Jack, something has happened to our

Jack received the call from his wife, he was in a meeting with the board of directors. When he heard Queenie saying that something had happened to their daughter, his first thought was that something had happened to Bianca. For the first time, his dignified aura cracked from the shock in front of his

realized that he was acting inappropriately, he found a quiet place and immediately gave Queenie a call back. He asked worriedly, "What's wrong with Bea? What happened to

Although Bianca had found out who her biological family was, she never changed her surname to Norman as a show of gratitude to the Rayne family for their kindness in raising her. Naturally, Jack and his wife respected her wishes.

On the other side of the phone, Queenie spoke anxiously, "Our eldest daughter isn't the one in trouble. It's our youngest daughter, Leia."

Jack calmed down a little when he heard that it was not *Bianca*.

He had just breathed a sigh of relief when his wife's next words left a thick layer of gloom on his upright and dignified face. "Two police officers came to our house today and said that Leia is being suspected of drug use and possession. She was then taken to the police station for investigation. Leia's being interrogated now, Ol' Norman. You'd better come quick. I don't think she's in a good state of mind right now. I'm worried that something will happen **to her...**"

Jack's hand almost crushed the phone as his eyes turned bloodshot, flooding with *anger*.

Even so, he still reassured Queenie with a calm tone, saying, "Don't worry, Queen. I'll be there *soon*."

...

In an old-timey English teahouse.

It was a secluded and artistic place decorated with a combination of Eastern and Western elements. Even though it was not a large space, it was very well-decorated.

There was a colorful painted folding screen made with rhinestones with a sandblasted finish and a poem on it. Soft music flowed from the speakers **above**.

of the folding screen were two beautifully crafted chaise longue which could be sat on or lay on. It was covered with snow-white mink cashmere and the floor was carpeted with thick velvet of the same color, giving the entire room a gorgeous and comfortable

was one chaise longue on each side, one on the left and one on the right. Two women dressed in two different colors were seated on each one, both of them looking

of slender and soft hands holding a brown teapot with a small spout slowly poured the hot tea into the hand-painted porcelain

fragrance of tea wafted through the air, flowing

woman pouring the tea on the left was Bianca. On this day, she was wearing a plain white dress. She had a gentle temperament, and her soft black hair was draped over her shoulders. Her oval face looked delicate and rosy, while her pair of dark brown eyes looked bright. They were like gentle glittering pearls. Every move of hers was as elegant as a morning dewdrop rolling down a

on the right was tall and cold. A thin green velvet scarf was tied around her snow-white neck and she had delicate, light makeup on. Her long hair was tied into a high ponytail. Her slender legs were closed, and she was seated in a posture that made her seem like a professional model. She looked just like a cold beautiful

looked at the cold beauty in front of her. Her smile was surprisingly gentle. "Bridget, you're usually so busy. Why do you suddenly have the time to meet up with

beauty was previously Bianca's senior when she was studying at St. Andrews College. Her name was Bridget Lancaster. She was also an architecture student who studied architectural design. Eventually, the two became besties because they had

beginning, Bridget was very popular in their college. It was not only because of her cool and proud appearance but also because she was excellent in her academics. She won many awards, both big and small ones, and made a name for herself in the architectural field at a young

poor family background, Bridget's family was wealthy. Even so, she was never proud because of that nor would she look down on students from poor families. When she made friends, she did not care whether they were rich or poor. She only cared about people's character and talent, so she was very

Chapter 739

Bianca was on the road, driving. When she was waiting at the red light, she was thinking about what Bridget had said.

Bridget had asked, "Bianca, you've always been talented in design and you're extremely intelligent. Why would you ever settle to be an ordinary housewife?"

"Didn't you use to dream of being the best architect in the world? You know how humans are. Once they get into a comfortable environment for a long time, it's easy to fall into complacency. They'd still be okay if they had strong self-control and restraint. Otherwise, they would just be content with their lives and not do anything to better themselves."

"Bianca, I think that with the talent you have, whether it's your natural talent or what you've refined throughout the years, it's more than enough for you to start your own company. You should give it a try because we should use our time while we're still young to work hard. Otherwise, we'd only regret it if we wait until we're too old."

The truth was, Bianca had never intended to be a housewife.

However, in the past few days when she was at home taking care of her grandpa, her kids, reading books during her free time, tending to her garden... This was a relaxing and cozy life.

To be honest, she quite enjoyed such a life.

Her elders were in good health, her babies were smart and clever, and her husband doted on her.

Bianca even thought that it would be a good idea to live like that for the rest of her life.

Unknowingly, after living a comfortable life, she had indeed become somewhat complacent without realizing it.

Bridget's words woke Bianca up and made her realize that she had fallen into such a terrible state of complacency.

It was not that Bianca had not thought of starting her own company.

a company required operating capital, strong management, staff recruitment, and so on. She needed the human resources, the capital, and the enterprise assets. It was a laborious and tiring task. She did not have any other qualifications other than her

she was the interim CEO of T Corporation, she had endless business duties, meetings, and errands every day, which made her incredibly busy and exhausted. However, when she saw the company's performance climbing upward under her leadership, there was also a touch of pride in Bianca's heart that words could not

down the window and looked at the endless crowd of people at the pedestrian crossing. She watched the groups of people coming from both sides of the road and suddenly remembered a

every hard step throughout the way, but I'm still going. I'm still going, regardless of the

sound of the wind in my ears is like a song of inspiration, telling me to try my best and take every step that I can

traveled through countless rugged terrains, but I'm still going. That way, I can know how high I

of that and remembered that she was still in her prime. Indeed, she should go all out and work harder while she was

she could have the ability and money to comfortably live in her

all, it was feasible to start

decided to go back and discuss it with Luke. With his experience, she would ask him for advice on how to start

...

Since Leia had been taken away by the police, Bianca knew that her parents must be busy with her matters.

That was why she decided to go back to Norman residence first.

Although she had never liked Leia, Bianca still called her mother to ask how Leia was doing since Bianca was her elder sister by name. "Mom, is Leia **okay?**"

Queenie sounded tired. "It's nothing serious, Bea. Dad and I are a bit busy right now, so I can't come over to meet you. Go ahead and take Tommy back to your place. When we're free after a couple of days, we'll pay you a visit at your place."

Bianca's heart tightened for a while and she suddenly had a bad feeling. "Mom, did Leia actually **touch that...**"

At the other end of the phone, Queenie did not say anything for a long time.

Bianca even thought the call was cut off when her mother suddenly said, "Don't worry about her. Dad and I will take care of it, Bea. I have something to do, so I'll hang *up now*."

"Mom, Mom..."

Bianca wanted to say something else, but a beeping tone came from the phone. Queenie had already hung up on the *other side*.

She did not want to give up and tried to call her father, Jack. However, his phone was turned off, which worried Bianca even **more**.

In the end, she could not take it anymore and called Luke.

rang for a few seconds before the call was answered. The man's low and magnetic voice came through.

"Luke, I..."

could finish her sentence, the red light turned green and there was an urgent and incredibly loud honk from

immediately stepped on the gas to go forward when she suddenly saw an old man walking across the road even though it was a red light

so shocked that she slammed the brakes and the tires rubbed against the tarmac, making a sharp to the inertia, Bianca's entire body dived forward before she was pulled back into the seat by her seat

man crossed the road unharmed but did not even show her a

ears were sharp and he heard the commotion. His anxious voice sounded. "Are you outside?"

car behind her kept on honking and

was lying on the steering wheel, seemingly not hearing

was as if her body had been drained of all strength. After a short while, she finally came back to her senses and answered Luke, "I'm fine. My senior from college last time asked me out for tea today and I almost hit someone with my car on the way back... Luckily, nothing happened. What a scare

Chapter 740

Bianca returned to Norman residence and picked up Tommy. After that, she was just about to go back home when she suddenly received a call from Rainie's class teacher.

The class teacher sounded very anxious. "Mrs. Crawford, the art teacher took the class to a flower field to do live sketching today, but Rainie suddenly disappeared. We couldn't reach her on the phone, so did she go home?"

"You couldn't reach Rainie?" After Bianca learned about this, her phone almost slipped out of her hand. She panicked and immediately called home as well as Crawford Manor.

However, after calling both sides, she was told that Rainie was not there.

Bianca became really anxious and imagined the millions of possibilities such as Rainie being caught by human traffickers. Trafficked children would get sold and get their limbs chopped off. Worse, she might even have her organs gouged out to be sold.

When she thought of this, Bianca felt the blood all over her body freeze and solidify.

She was terribly anxious and called Louis.

When Lanie found out that his sister was missing, he did not panic. Instead, he reassured Bianca, "Mom, don't worry. Rainie is a girl who knows what she should and shouldn't do. Maybe she got lost somewhere because she was playing. Just let the teachers look for her around the place they were live sketching for now. Have you contacted Dad yet? Since Dad knows a lot of people, I'm sure he'll find Rainie soon."

Bianca hurriedly contacted Luke. After he found out that his daughter had disappeared, he immediately put down what he was doing and called the police. He got them to go over and search the location where Rainie went missing during the live sketching session.

After that, Luke contacted Percy and told him to pay attention to black market transactions to see if any beautiful young girls were being auctioned.

Both the legal and illegal channels were secretly mobilized at the same time because the Crawford family's most precious daughter had suddenly disappeared. For a while, the people of A City were alarmed and thought that a big shot had met with an accident.

...

Manor, everyone was anxiously searching

the same time, around noon, amidst the

was a quiet stone path with dark greenery of lush trees and vegetation. Both sides of the path were lined with an endless sea of

differently colored flowers interlaced across the field, weaving in a thousand different place was mellow, full of green leaves and surrounded by flowers. It was

fair and young girl was hidden in the flower field, her little body standing in front of a tender but agile little hands were painting the beautiful

little girl looked to be about seven or eight years old. She wore a delicate chiffon dress and had a beautiful

her palm-sized pale face was a pair of spirited eyes that were as clear as a lake. On her eyes were long curly eyelashes that were like fluttering butterflies when she blinked, looking incredibly

had a button nose and cherry blossom lips that made her look like a breathtaking little

Rainie was painting quietly, occasionally lifting the brush and using it to tap her head. That little movement of hers beautifully matched the surroundings.

There were colorful butterflies dancing around her. They looked as if they liked her very much, and anyone who saw this scene would be amazed.

Not far from the flower field, there was an extremely thick 100-year-old banyan tree. Underneath it was a pair of cold and evil eagle-like eyes locked tightly on the small figure that was quietly painting. Suddenly, a dangerous and predatory arc curled up on the man's thin lips.

He was like a silent ghost that suddenly appeared in a flash, approaching the girl. He watched her stop painting with that innocent look on her face. There was a butterfly on her hand and she murmured *to it*.

"Butterfly, oh butterfly. I want to be a dancer when I grow up, but I also want to be a painter. Which one do you think I should be?"

"Mom and Dad are more lovey-dovey than ever now. The two of them often kiss in front of me and my brother. Uncle Louis said that they're showing off, but I don't get it. How are they showing off?"

*"Aunt Sue's twins are getting more and more beautiful. I think I'd like them to be my brothers' wives. Do you think my brothers will **like them?**"*

*"Simon Holston is so annoying. He pulls on my braids every day and bullies me. How can there be such a bad boy in this world? Look how nice my brother is. He's very polite to girls and he treats me even nicer. If only every boy was as nice as my **brother...**"*

When Rainie was whispering to the butterfly, suddenly, a pair of palms covered her chattering mouth. Rainie did not even have a chance to shout for help when the man grabbed her by her soft waist and lifted her **entire body**.

"Boo-hoo..." Rainie struggled desperately but she was held firmly to *his chest*.

a strong smell of blood in her nose and it made her extremely uncomfortable. It made her want to vomit, but her mouth was covered, so she

girl's pure and flawless eyes met a pair of incredibly evil,

the eyes of an extremely noble young man who looked to be about 15 years

teenager's skin was as smooth as porcelain. He had an unparalleled noble temperament and seemed elegant but also wild. He seemed to have a charm that could bewitch all living

over there and find that kid for me! I must get my hands on that kid! If we let him get away, we'll all be done for!" A fierce voice rang out not far from the flower

trembled, and she could only feel the large palm grabbing her becoming even

did not even dare to breathe too loudly. After a long time, when the voices on the other side got farther and farther away, the teenager finally let her

name?" the teenager spoke in an English accent. His voice was melodious and sounded like a piano

at his bleeding arm and the hideous wound on it. She took two steps back in fear but kindly reminded him, "Big Brother, your arm is hurt. You should get it bandaged in a hospital as soon as you

art teacher had brought their class out to do some live sketches, but since the place their teacher took them to had an average view, she sneaked away to look for a more beautiful place to sketch. She did not expect that she would encounter something

name?!" The teenager put Rainie down and asked coldly